

and some of my friends were getting upset, saying I needed my rest. But I knew what I was doing. God knew what I was doing. I needed to organize my friends and family first, and I told them that we've got to fight this, because it's not just me. People have to go get checked, and we need to organize around this."

Out of those bedside meetings, Smith was able to establish the Spirit of Hope campaign, which seeks solutions to health disparities among minority and poor Americans. The campaign focuses on universal health care, education about the need for screening measures, addressing astronomical health care costs and promoting general well-being among minority and poor people.

"The whole spectrum of wellness is what the Spirit of Hope campaign is focusing on, and I wouldn't have it any other way. It wouldn't be me if it didn't focus on something other than me," said Smith.

Smith says that despite the cost and fear associated with the procedure, it is imperative that people of color and those living below the poverty line get regular checkups, including colonoscopies.

"What are you going to fear most? [If] you want to live, you cannot fear doing what you have to do to live. Colonoscopies are expensive. They're between \$700 to \$900 dollars. And if you're not insured, that's a major problem. For Black people, and people of color and poor people, that's a major problem."

"It's very important we organize a campaign that insures that everyone has access to effective, holistic, comprehensive, prevention health care and access to treatment facilities so they get what they need when they need it," he argued.

Smith is also thinking about access for his 12-year-old daughter Asha, who he lovingly refers to as "Asha Boo-Boo" and the "crown jewel of his life." "I don't want her to go through this. I want her and all of her little friends to get screened when the time is right. So, I have to work for them too," said Smith.

As my time with Smith draws to a close, I begin to wonder if maybe he hadn't been misdiagnosed. The wristband, which resembles a hospital clasp, is in fact a tag from the Essence Music Festival that he's simply neglected to remove. Damu Smith is doing life Damu Smith-style: happy, brilliant and winning the fight.

"This has been one of the happiest times in my life, in the midst of this crisis. Now some people might say, 'How is that possible?' It's possible because I have seen the love come to me in such wonderful ways. I cannot begin to describe how profound, how rich and warm and beautiful the love has been from my family and friends and God. I thank God for this moment and for the chance to fight," said Smith.

IN HONOR OF MICKEY OWEN

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mickey Owen, who distinguished himself in southwest Missouri by his 16 years of public service and his commitment to improving the lives of young people.

Mickey Owen began his Major League Baseball career in 1937 when he was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals. Mickey Owen went on to play 13 seasons as a catcher with the

Cardinals, Dodgers, Cubs and Red Sox and was named to the all-star team four times. After Mickey Owen retired from professional baseball in 1954, he started the Mickey Owen Baseball School in Miller, Missouri. Mickey Owen created an environment for young players, focused on improving their skills and enhancing their appreciation for the game he loved. Owen promoted the idea that young players showed more improvement when relaxed and would excel if a non-threatening atmosphere was present. Mickey Owen Baseball School has instructed thousands of young players from around the world since its inception in 1959. Mickey Owen became the sheriff of Greene County, Missouri in 1965, where he honorably served for 16 years.

Mickey Owen's contributions throughout his life and the impact he had on thousands of young lives will not be forgotten.

HONORING AMY TAYLOR ON THE
COMPLETION OF HER INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Amy Taylor for her service to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while interning in my office. Both Amy and I are proud to call Murfreesboro, Tennessee, home.

Amy will soon begin her senior year at Middle Tennessee State University, where she is an English major. She is a member of the Kappa Delta sorority and a radio personality on the local jazz station.

Amy was a tremendous help and a wonderful addition to my office. She helped address constituent concerns, assisted me and my staff with numerous projects, and served as a friendly and informative tour guide of the U.S. Capitol, providing visitors from middle Tennessee with a personalized look at a national treasure.

I trust that Amy enjoyed her whirlwind internship and her first-hand examination of the workings of Congress. I know I enjoyed her fresh perspective and enthusiasm during her time here. I wish her all the best in the future.

HARLEM WEEK 2005: THE LEGACY
CONTINUES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 31st anniversary of a series of festivities honoring the wonders of Harlem, my home community which I am privileged to represent in the Congress. Harlem Week 2005 is a cultural, educational, and entertaining series of activities designed to highlight the history, traditions, and future of the Harlem community that has grown from its modest beginnings to become a major attraction for the residents of the community and thousands of visitors annually.

A lifelong resident of Harlem, I have long been proud of the many facets of my community. From the music and arts of the Harlem

community to the politics and strategies of Harlem's activists and leaders, this is a community that is rich in diversity, entertainment, culture, and love. It is a community that embraces its differences and its commonalities in order to represent the rainbow of beauty and culture that characterizes our great city of New York.

Harlem Week is a celebration of this embrace. It is a time for the community and the families that make up that community to come together, to be exposed to their variety of traditions and customs, and to affirm their individual identities as well as their American consciousness. This community will always, in my mind, represent the essence of America. And, during Harlem Week, we pay tribute to the soul of America.

Harlem Week is not simply a series of festivities and parties. It is an educational experience where individuals are taught to appreciate the arts and the history of the community. This summer, in theatrical performances, dance exhibitions, story-tellings, and other artistic expressions, the Harlem community will come alive in recognizing its rich and beautiful cultural attributes. The accomplishments and history of the African-American cinema will be highlighted alongside a celebration of Jazz and music that has originated in Harlem. Harlem will applaud the history of a diverse community that has struggled with the soul and legacy of generations of Americans.

Harlem Week is also a family event. Children of all ages will be entertained throughout this recognition of the wonder and cultural diversity of Harlem. Petting zoos, story-tellers, fashion shows, and interactive arts—all with an emphasis on achievement and education—will be displayed throughout the events of Harlem.

This year, attendees will also be exposed to the diverse sports and entertainment heritage of Harlem. The National Black Sports & Entertainment Hall of Fame will induct such entertainment luminaries as Phylicia Rashad, Bonnie Raitt, Marian Anderson, Alvin Ailey, Pearl Bailey, Ray Baretto, Donald Byrd, Kenny Gamble, Frankie Crocker, Symphony Sid, and Tito Rodriguez. Sports stars such as John Chaney, Fritz Pollard, Rafer Johnson, Lou Carnesecca, Zina Garrison, Jack Johnson, Elston Howard, Johnny Sample, and Al McGuire will also be inducted in the Hall of Fame.

Harlem Week 2005 promises to be one of the best celebrations of the vitality of the Harlem community this year. It will be an important celebration of the soul of America and the community that has long nurtured that soul. This celebration, exposure, and education of the community will truly be instrumental in understanding and appreciating the beauty of the Harlem community.

As always, I welcome the Members of this Congress, as well as all citizens of these United States of America, to join me and the Harlem community during Harlem Week 2005. You will not regret your time there. I submit for the RECORD the calendar of events for Harlem Week and I look forward to seeing you in Harlem.

HARLEM WEEK 2005: THE LEGACY CONTINUES

NEW YORK'S PREMIERE FESTIVAL CONTINUES TO
CELEBRATE DECADES OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

June 29, 2005 (Harlem, USA)—Back by popular demand, HARLEM WEEK, which celebrates its 31st Anniversary, returns with a